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The Honorable Tom Coburn

Chairman

Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management

439 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coburn:

I am writing in response to your letter dated July 27, 2006 in which you seek information relating to federally funded research projects conducted at New York University (NYU).

NYU is an internationally recognized Category I Research University with a long tradition of fostering innovative research dating back to its founding in the early 1800s when Samuel Morse had a laboratory in the main university building. Our faculty and students contribute to the advancement of the sciences, arts, humanities, and across the health and medical fields—from cutting-edge brain imaging and genomics research to the cataloging and preservation of ancient Aramaic and Judaic texts to the discovery of the Hepatitis B vaccine. The university seeks support for its educational and research mission from a wide variety of sources, including federal, state and city government, private donors, as well as foundations.

NYU successfully competes for over \$280 million per year in federal research funding. In addition, the University has partnered directly with members of Congress and funding agencies on projects ranging from disaster preparedness and response to environmental health and asthma studies in the South Bronx, to research related to genomics, cancer, brain imaging and rehabilitation medicine, to capital and facilities funding for dental clinics and other critical health facilities.

For each of these projects, comprehensive proposals including goals, objectives and scope of work were submitted to the appropriate federal agency, at which point, each went through a thorough review and approval process before funding was allocated. Should you have questions regarding specific projects, we respectfully request you contact the appropriate federal agencies or the relevant members of the House and Senate for additional information.

As the National Academies' Report *Rising Above the Gathering Storm* accurately states, it is essential that federal policymakers understand that U.S. productivity growth has been driven largely by investments in scientific research and development. So, while we appreciate and applaud your effort to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely, we hope you will conclude that adequately funding university-based research and education initiatives is essential to maintaining our nation's long-term economic competitiveness and security.

Sincerely,

Pierre Hohenberg, Ph.D.
Senior Vice Provost for Research
New York University